

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 126873

12

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 L-03 COME-00 AGR-10

SCSE-00 SCA-01 H-02 /054 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/NC/C:JFMAISTO:JVM

APPROVED BY ARA/NC: FRANK J. DEVINE

----- 001362

R 310028Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS STATE 126873

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, CO

SUBJECT: ALLEGED LAND SWINDLE IN COLOMBIA

1. ARA/NC HAS RECEIVED NSC MEMORANDUM TRANSMITTED IN PARAGRAPHS 2-5. IN ORDER TO PERMIT AN EXPEDITIOUS REPLY, WHICH MUST BE PROVIDED NSC BY JUNE 5, EMBASSY'S EARLIEST RESPONSE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
2. QUOTE: THE VICE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN ASKED TO INTERCEDE WITH THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF SEVERAL PERSONS WHO FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN TREATED UNFAIRLY IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO BUY REAL ESTATE IN COLOMBIA.
3. THE CONCERN ATTEMPTING TO BUY THE LAND IS THE FARM GROWERS ASSOCIATION OF WINSBORO, LOUISIANA. MR. RALPH GILL AND MR. HERMAN L. LESTER OF GARLAND, ARKANSAS, CLAIM THEY HAVE ALREADY PAID A DOWN-PAYMENT OF 350,000 DOLLARS ON THE LAND AND THAT THEY HAVE ALSO PAID 250,000 DOLLARS DEMANDED BY SOME COLOMBIAN LAWYERS. THE COLOMBIAN LAWYERS ALLEGEDLY HAVE ALSO ATTACHED A LIEN TO THE PROPERTY IN THE AMOUNT OF 300,000 DOLLARS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 126873

4. MR. GILL AND MR. LESTER HAVE TRIED TO DISCUSS THEIR

PROBLEM WITH OUR AMBASSADOR IN BOGOTA AND WITH THE  
MILITARY ATTACHE, A COLONEL VAIL, BUT WITH LITTLE SUCCESS.  
THEY FEEL THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT KNOW  
THAT THEY ARE BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF AND WOULD LIKE  
AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ.

5. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF YOU WOULD PROVIDE BACK-  
GROUND INFORMATION ON THIS PROBLEM AND PREPARE A DRAFT  
RESPONSE FOR SIGNATURE IN THE VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.  
IF NECESSARY YOU MAY WISH TO QUERY THE EMBASSY IN  
BOGOTA. UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE126873  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JFMAISTO:JVM  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750191-0216  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975051/aaaaaatn.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 DEC 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 DEC 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALLEGED LAND SWINDLE IN COLOMBIA  
**TAGS:** BDIS, CO  
**To:** BOGOTA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006